United Nations E/2007/SR.7

Economic and Social Council

Provisional

5 April 2007

Original: English

Organizational session for 2007

Provisional summary record of the 7th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 15 March 2007, at 11 a.m.

President: Mr. Čekuolis ..... (Lithuania)

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07-27067 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Election of a Vice-President

1. **The President** announced the departure from the Council of Ambassador Lauro L. Baja, Jr. He had been informed that, in accordance with rule 22 of the Rules of Procedure of the Council, the Group of Asian States had endorsed the candidacy of Mr. Hilario G. Davide, Jr., Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations, to replace Ambassador Baja.

2. *Mr. Hilario G. Davide, Jr. (Philippines) was elected by acclamation Vice President of the Council for the remainder of its 2007 session.*

3. **The President** noted that Mr. Davide would be responsible for the coordination segment of the Council's 2007 substantive session.

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*) (E/2006/31, E/2007/1 and Corr.1, E/2007/2/Rev.1 and E/2007/L.1)

Draft proposals submitted by the President and members of the Bureau on the basis of informal consultations held pursuant to paragraph 2 (I) of Council decision 1988/77 (*continued*) (E/2007/L.1)

4. **The President** invited the Council to resume its consideration of the draft decisions contained in document E/2007/L.1, submitted by the Bureau on the basis of informal consultations held pursuant to paragraph 2 (I) of Council decision 1988/77 (E/2007/L.1).

Draft decision II: Provisional agenda for the substantive session of 2007 of the Economic and Social Council (E/2007/1 and Corr.1)

5. **Ms. de Laurentis** (Secretary of the Council) announced that in light of the decisions taken at the 2005 World Summit and by the General Assembly in its resolution 61/16, the reference to the "Note by the Secretary-General on the proposed theme for the high-level segment of the 2008 substantive session of the Council (General Assembly resolution 50/2007, annex I)" in paragraph I (1) of document E/2007/1 should be deleted.

6. *Draft decision II was adopted.*

Draft decision III: Basic programme of work of the Economic and Social Council for 2008 (E/2007/1)

7. *Draft decision III was adopted.*

Draft decision VIII: Theme for the humanitarian affairs segment of the 2007 substantive session of the Council

8. **The President** announced that, following informal informal consultations, the Council was prepared to adopt the following text of the draft decision:

"The Economic and Social Council decides:

(a) That the theme for the humanitarian affairs segment of its substantive session of 2007 would be: "Strengthening of the coordination of United Nations humanitarian assistance through enhancing the effectiveness of needs-based humanitarian assistance"

(b) That it would convene two panels, the topics of which would be:

(i) The use of military assets in natural disaster relief

(ii) Needs-based humanitarian financing, including the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)."

9. *Draft decision VIII, was adopted as orally revised.*

Draft decision IV: Theme for the item on regional cooperation of the 2007 substantive session of the Council

10. **The President** recalled that, pursuant to its decision 1982/174, the Council had decided to identify, at its annual organizational session, a subject relating to interregional cooperation, of common interest to all regions, and to request the executive secretaries of the regional commissions to submit their joint recommendations in that regard. He had been informed that the executive secretaries had recommended the following theme for the item on regional cooperation of the 2007 substantive session: "Regional dimension of strengthening efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger, including through the partnership for development at regional level". If there was no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the draft decision as orally revised.

11. **Mr. Khan** (Pakistan), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that as the revised text of the draft decision had not been circulated prior to the meeting, the Group would prefer to defer a decision on its adoption.

12. **Mr. Mally** (United States of America) confirmed that it was the Council's normal procedure to allow time for delegations to discuss such proposals.

13. **The President** said that the Council would resume consideration of the draft decision at a subsequent meeting.

Annotated provisional agenda (*continued*) (E/2007/2/Rev.1)

14. **The President** invited the Council to resume its consideration of the draft decisions contained in the annotated provisional agenda (E/2007/2/Rev.1).

Report of the Committee for Development Policy (E/2006/33)

15. **The President** drew attention to the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its eighth session (E/2006/33) and, in particular, to Recommendation 2, in which the Committee recommended to the Council that Samoa should be graduated from the list of least developed countries. He announced that, following informal informal consultations, the Council was prepared to adopt the following draft decision:

> "The Economic and Social Council, in pursuance of its decision 2006/266,
>
> (1) Requests the Committee for Development Policy to invite Samoa to present its case to the Committee at its ninth session in 2007.
>
> (2) Further requests the Committee for Development Policy to examine the issues related by Samoa and submit a report containing its recommendations for the consideration of the Council."

He reminded the Council that the ninth session of the Committee would be held from 19 to 23 March 2007.

16. *The draft decision was adopted.*

17. **Mr. Mally** (United States of America) said that his delegation considered it important that the Council had adopted a decision which would help strengthen the lines of communication between the Committee for Development Policy and the delegation of Samoa. Although that decision had taken some time to negotiate, the overall result was positive. He welcomed the increased participation of Member States in the Committee's activities, although that should in no way be seen as a criticism of its excellent work.

18. He hoped that the Committee would begin to prepare the report that the Council requested in its decision, which his delegation viewed as focused solely on issues relating to Samoa's graduation status, as soon as possible and that the report would be issued before the end of the organizational session so that the Council could complete work on the matter during that session. If that proved impossible, a special meeting should be held so that the issue could be resolved before the opening of the Council's 2007 substantive session.

19. **Mr. Graf** (Germany) said it was his delegation's understanding that the decision that the Council had just adopted would enable it to consider the issue of Samoa's graduation prior to the substantive session.

20. **Mr. Khan** (Pakistan), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that it was the Group's view that substantive issues should not be taken up during the organizational session of the Council and that it assumed that such issues would not, in fact, be addressed during that session.

Report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (E/2006/31; note by the Secretariat containing a list of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) seeking accreditation to participate in the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development; and note by the Secretariat containing a list of business-sector entities, including the private sector, seeking accreditation to participate in the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development)

21. **The President** drew attention to the report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its ninth session (E/2006/31) and to the question of the participation of non-governmental organizations and business sector entities in the work of the Commission in follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society.

22. **Mr. Mérorès** (Haiti) said that while delegations had reached agreement on the participation of

non-governmental organizations in the Commission's work, they had yet to agree on the participation of business-sector entities. Further consultations would be held and he hoped that the text of a draft decision would be agreed within the next two weeks.

23. **The President** said he took it that the Council wished to postpone consideration of the report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development.

24. *It was so decided.*

Promoting an integrated approach to rural development in developing countries for poverty eradication and sustainable development

25. **The President** invited the Council to consider the proposal to include in a future substantive session a discussion on promoting an integrated approach to rural development in developing countries for poverty eradication and sustainable development. He announced that, following informal informal consultations, the Council was prepared to adopt the following draft decision:

> "The Economic and Social Council decides to include a discussion on promoting an integrated approach to rural development in developing countries for poverty eradication and sustainable development at its substantive session of 2008."

26. A decision on the allocation of that discussion to a specific segment of the 2008 substantive session would be taken at the organizational session of 2008.

27. *The draft decision was adopted.*

28. **The President** announced that at a meeting with the Bureau on 12 March 2007, the Secretary-General had indicated that he would remain engaged and interested in the Council's work and planned to participate in the special high-level meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and in the high-level segment of the 2007 substantive session of the Council.

29. **Mr. Graf** (Germany), speaking on behalf of the European Union, noted that in section 3 of the annotated provisional agenda (E/2007/2/Rev.1), it was stated that "the President of the Council shall convene consultations on the organization of work, agenda and current methods of work of the Council with a view to their implementation beginning in 2007". He asked when the President planned to convene those consultations.

30. **The President** replied that he intended first to consult with the current chairpersons of the regional groups; that process would begin during the coming week.

The meeting rose at 11.50 a.m.